

## THE RADIANT LIFE OF THE SISTERS AT LOUDEAC

(Brittany - France)

They have become « soul Sisters »



Mimi loves to spend hours snoozing in the corner of the dining room. It is several months since this young cat with brown fur has taken up her abode in this tranquil haven, far from the errant life she lived before. « Right! Although she spends the nights out-



side ! » Odile cuts in with her teasing smile.

In the early 1980ies this little community chose to leave the buildings of the old Providence Clinic, to found a community among the inhabitants of Loudeac, in a very ordinary house. It is a way of living together a spiritual life upon which their whole existence is based, and a social life in touch with all people whether they are believers or not.

### **Nobody is bored**

Sister Francine, a retired teacher who has been in Loudiac for three years, assures us that the community « has simple relationships with the people. We are at once involved in parish life and well integrated into the life of the area ». A sense of solidarity has been developed among the neighbours ; a helping hand with the garden, a jar of jam to express thanks, or a visit to a family where the birth of a baby is expected. On a social level, quite simply, « The spirit of the Congregation is this : to try to be witnesses of unity».

Each peson has her own characteristics, her own occupations. Joyful and voluble, Sister Odile has been in Loudeac since 2010. As secretary of the parishes of Loudeac and Plouguenast, she juggles with a dense timetable : monthly newsletter, hymn sheets, communication with the local press, pastoral leadership team, liturgy group, soprano in the choir etc.

Sister Anne-Marie, a native of Finistere (Brittany) shares in the work of the hospital chaplaincy and she animates the religious events in residences for older people. Her voice, which is clear and tuneful, is well known by the past pupils of the Stella-Matutina Secondary school (now Xavier-Grall school) where she was Headteacher from 1956 to 1980.

Sister Madeleine left Val-de-Marne in 2013. After « a long period of teaching » she is also involved in the hospital chaplaincy. Her special role is to bring Holy Communion to people with poor mobility or who are bed ridden.

**A young Malagacie Sister** : indeed the youngest in the group, Sister Jeannette, arrived in Loudeac to spend a year, far from her native land, Madagascar. She is living an international experience in order to « increase her knowledge of the history of the Congregation » and to prepare for her final vows which she will make when she returns to her country. She spends her days mainly in Saviour-Grall College where she is working to perfect her French as well as following a course in « personal assistance » and helping to serve in the kitchen.

Sister Francine gently accompanies Sr Jeannette encouraging her progress. She also contributes to the formation of catechumens ; adults who wish to become Christians. She tactfully guides this radiant little community. Including Mimi!.

(Article written by Benoit Trehorel, published in the local newspaper)